



News Release

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Enfield Writer Selected as U.S. Small Business Administration 2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year

Hartford, CT - The U.S. Small Business Administration selected Enfield resident Diane Weaver Dunne, Senior Reporter for the Hartford Business Journal as the 2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year. The Hartford Business Journal (HBJ) is a weekly business to business publication and a daily web publication focused on the small business community in the Central Connecticut region. The newspaper is known for delivering valued news, commentary and opinion that local business decision makers seek. For over five years, Diane has been an important element with the development of the HBJ as a "regular read" helping to keep up with their reputation as she covers many topics to inspire, inform and arm small businesses with knowledge, strategies, and timely facts.

Some evaluation criteria judged by those nominated in this category are, a concerted effort to increase public understanding of the importance of small business contributions to the economy, and contribution of news and feature stories, etc that highlight and analyze small business issues. Diane's reporting offers real life examples of successful entrepreneurs. From hot dog vendors, restaurant owners and beauty school owners, her use of business intuition results in a deep connection with her readers. Diane's interviewing style, allows her to discover the areas of interest that will provide insights that resonate with fellow entrepreneurs. Her passion for the small business community is evidenced by her search for the positive outlook, and her understanding of the entrepreneurial spirit allows her to connect to the heart of her readers.

Through her various leadership activities in the community, Diane understands that individual acts can make a difference to the community as a whole. Because of this belief and as a reporter, she writes articles about business leaders who make a difference in the region through acts of social responsibility, charitable giving, volunteerism, and involvement in community organizations.

A native of Enfield, Connecticut, Diane lives in her hometown and has been active in various community activities over the years. In 1998 she founded a scholarship fund for Fermi High School varsity soccer players pursuing a college education. She also initiated and organized a local beautification program in 1997 where Fermi High School athletes cleaned up the high school grounds and planted mums and flower bulbs in the fall. Diane also co-chaired a neighborhood fundraising campaign to establish Wallop School Park, in the southwest corner of Enfield.

Earlier in her career, Diane has written for the Hartford Courant, Imprint Newspapers and the Connecticut Law Tribune, and worked as news editor for Education World, a Web magazine. Diane has also taught communication courses as an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford.

An award celebration for the SBA 2006 award recipients will be held Thursday June 15, 2006 at 4:00p.m. at The Belvedere, New Haven CT, for more information contact Greta Johansson at (860) or 240-4672 Hugh Curley at (860) 240-4650.

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